

## LETTERS

limited vocabulary and small minds of that time.

My wife rides and rides hard. She more often than not takes the lead on the mountain roads around Northern California and northern Nevada. It is a good thing when you provide information that assists couples who ride together and that some of us old guys can still learn, but only if we want to. Genevieve should not have commented on the letter but let the majority of her readers handle the response.

R.C. MCCREADY  
AL KHOBAR, SAUDI ARABIA

### KOREA KRUISSING

I'm the road lieutenant for a group of American military personnel and expats riding in Seoul, South Korea. Our members are US military, retirees, government employees, contractors, Koreans, and Korean-Americans. We are very active in promoting riding safely and enjoying the ride. I've been following Don Gomo's column on group riding for the last several months. We practice most of the techniques he recommends in his column.

We use a couple of additional techniques when riding as a group. First, the road captain (group leader) is given additional space or distance so he is free to drift in the lane to determine the best course and to signal the group about any hazards. Second, when riding the fun, curvy mountain roads, we automatically go into a single-file formation, not staggered, and increase distance between riders so everyone can take the best line through the curves and "ride his own ride." This statement is part of our standard safety briefing before each ride.

This year, we implemented a Motorcycle Mentorship Program coordinated with the US Army Combat Readiness Center, the former Safety Center, and our local safety offices. Before a new rider is allowed to ride with the group, he must successfully complete a solo check ride with a designated mentor and also complete three group check rides. We do this for the safety of the new rider as well as the group. If he plans to ride with a passenger, we also require a separate passenger check ride due to the difference in handling, accelerating, and braking when traveling with a passenger.

On September 30, we took 34 bikes — 45 people total — to the

North/South Korean Demilitarized Zone. We've tried to coordinate this ride for several years and have finally succeeded. It takes special authorization to ride that far north. We toured the Joint Security Area, a North Korean infiltration tunnel, and Observation Point Dora.

DANA LOOMIS (REAPER)  
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

### HOT TOPIC

What are your thoughts about the issues people are having with the 2007 Harleys, specifically the 96" engines and six-speed transmissions. My issues started when I bought my first brand-new cycle, a 2007 Electra Glide Standard. I was so excited to have my first brand-new bike, you know. I was off riding and riding, and the whole time my bike would not shift into neutral with my foot. I had to reach down and use my hand, and that got me irritated. Then I started to realize, man, this dang thing is running hot — 30 to 50 degrees hotter than an 88" motor. That's what a couple of techs at dealers have told me.

So I was talking to my father and came to find out that two of his friends that just bought brand-new Classics are having the same problem. One even, like me, has burned his leg because it got so hot. We all three bought our bikes at different dealers up here in Ohio. One dealer took the one Classic, which was on its third trip within 30 days for the heat problem, and installed a Stage 1 kit with all Screamin' Eagle parts and pipes to make the bike run cooler. The problem is the EPA regs. Because of them, Harley has the bikes running real lean, which in turn is making them run super hot, and they can't just fix the bikes because the parts required to do so are classified as off-road use and, thus, are illegal for the factory to install on their new Harleys. It's a nightmare!

The Classic that was fixed, I think was only done so because they were going to have a "lemon" problem on their hands. The second Classic just had some different kind of oxygen sensors placed on it and then was sent away. That did not fix the heating issue. Then there's my bike. It's at the dealer as we speak, and they flat-out told me they were not going to fix the bike or do any



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